

Approved For Release 2004/12/16 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300070024-7	0.5)//
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Directorate of Intelligence 15 April 1975	
INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM	
The Situation in Indochina (As of 1600 EDST) No. 13	•
CAMBODIA 25X1	
l. The Khmer Communists appear on the verge of taking Phnom Penh. the Communist 1st Division had advanced to the eastern end of the Monivong (or United Nations) bridge leading into the southeastern sector of Phnom Penh proper. A late report also indicates that insurgent forces have captured Takhmau, the capital's southern suburb. The former US Navy attache in Phnom Penh talked with a Khmer navy officer by telephone today and learned that government units have abandoned all positions on the east bank of the Mekong River opposite downtown Phnom Penh. The Cambodian officer estimated that the city would fall within a day and said that the navy was planning to run the Mekong River presumably to South Vietnam with its remaining craft. 2. On the opposite side of the city, battlelines around Pochentong airport are running roughly along the railway embankment about a mile north of the airfield. A small insurgent force yesterday penetrated into the market just northeast of the airstrip but was quickly forced to withdraw. The main highway between Phnom Penh and Pochentong was cut late today, however, and the airport was reportedly being hit by machine gun and mortar fire.	_
<u>VIETNAM</u> 25X1 25X1	
3. Part of the North Vietnamese 312th Division may now be in the provinces north of Saigon.	· ·
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NSA, DIA review(s) completed.

aj P. r:	312th started moving south from central North Vietnam coximately two weeks ago. had reached a position near the Bolovens ceau in eastern Laos, and its movement through this cor or indicated that the 312th was headed to the Saigon a. 4. The 312th belongs to the 1st Corps a four divi	
32 GC Th tr ir ni mc	force which is currently shifting to South Vietnam the North. Another of the corps' divisions the 3 left North Vietnam before the 312th, and it too do have arrived in the provinces north of Saigon by now arrival of the 1st Corps and other units from the centrical highlands will significantly tilt the force balance the southern part of the country in favor of the Commutes and set the stage for a major drive against governated defenses around the capital. If they have arrived, new units probably will be ready to attack in a matter seers, if not days.	
<u>Χι</u>	Loc	
at de ha ci	5. South Vietnamese forces have expanded their hold- both east and west of Xuan Loc. The government units empting to open the road to Saigon are still meeting ermined Communist resistance, however, and their progres been slow. Although there is a shortage of food in the council, some of the civilians who fled from the city to the counding countryside are beginning to trickle back.	55 2
ai	s together with suspected sapper attacks within the ase resulted in the temporary closing of the jet fighter trip and destroyed large quantities of fuel and munitic	r
If Sc	hese attacks continue, air operations in support of h Vietnamese forces around Xuan Loc, will be sharply coed.	
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Fighting Increases Outside of Phan Rang

- 7. Yesterday's shelling of Phan Rang City has been followed by a number of ground attacks on government defensive positions to the north and west of the city. Although most government forces are holding firm, one Ranger battalion, however, has been forced to pull back. The regional commander, General Toan, has decided to postpone the withdrawal of the remainder of the Airborne brigade which has been the backbone of the government's defense line.
- 8. The commander of the forward regional headquarters at Phan Rang now has the Airborne and Ranger units deployed north and northeast of the airbase and the two 2nd Division regiments to the west and northwest of the airbase. Territorial forces have the responsibility of defending Phan Rang City -- located some five miles southeast of the airbase -- and the immediate surrounding area.

The Situation in the Delta

- 9. Fighting is still underway in Vinh Long Province across the river from Can Tho as the Communists continue to threaten Route 4. Early on April 15, Communist gunners fired an ineffective mortar barrage at the Binh Thuy Airbase outside Can Tho, and later fired some 50 rounds of mortar into Cai Lay District town at a critical road junction.
- 10. To the north in Duong Tuong Province, the North Vietnamese 8th Division has been redeploying in preparation for its long-expected campaign to cut Route 4. If the 8th Division coordinates its attacks on Route 4 with the North Vietnamese 5th Division farther north in Long An Province. the South Vietnamese 7th Division will be hard pressed to keep this vital link to Saigon open.

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The P	olitical Situation	
early circl addre showi the d ments to be be fo	April reflects a mood of peses. The sampling was made best to Congress on April 10 and by the South Vietnamese mielta. It seems unlikely, how, in themselves, have been en a general conviction that adorthcoming and that the Community for the South Vietnamese mig	ssimism within official efore President Ford's and the recent creditable litary at Xuan Loc and in vever, that these developmough to alter what appears dequate US support will not a sists now are simply too
espec is "wi uated offic their not be A formation went govern begin will levacua	12. The most immediate concertally those who have worked conat happens if." Reassurance are much sought after. Some als are adopting an attitude "only card" left and that permitted unless guarantees mer cabinet official, believed would be nearly impossible and troops would fire on anyone to ment politician feels that a hitting the government's define wholesale panic similar to ation from Tan Son Nhut Airposse of the chaos.	es that they will be evace middle-level government that the Americans are their evacuation should for their safety are made. The second that once it begins, government to leave. Another is soon as the Communists that at Da Nang and that
militaready: genera used f person and th and Na	13. A sense of impending distary. Some senior military of ing various evacuation scheme als" reportedly have commande to evacuate themselves and the inel reportedly have made preserved families out of Saigon of any personnel are making similand aircraft.	ficials reportedly are s of their own. "Several ered a boat which will be eir families. Air Force parations to move themselves n Vietnamese Air Force plane